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Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the committee (or sub-committee). It's a privilege to be here with my fellow Vice Chiefs to talk about the readiness of our military.

Easiest for me to talk to you in terms of simple supply and demand....as many of you know, the on-going demand for naval forces exceeds our long-term supply. And that need continues to grow with no end in sight. Supply is best summed up in one fact: your Navy today is the smallest we've had in 99 years. That said...we are where we are. Which makes it urgent....to adequately fund, fix and maintain the fleet we do have!

And by the way, we have never been busier... A quick snapshot around the globe and you'll see the Navy is the nation's primary deterrence policy in places like the Arabian, Mediterranean and South China Seas.

Over the past 5 or 6 years, this call for deterrence and to be ready to take action has grown....principally because of the aggressive growth from expanding naval competitors like Russia and China. And, when you add threats from Iran, North Korea, ISIS, and others, it's a very busy time for your Navy.

Our Sailors have always risen to the occasion, answering the call no matter the conditions, no matter the resources. From providing food, water and medical assistance in Haiti, to striking hostile sites in Yemen, to Navy SEALs taking down terrorist leaders...getting it done is who we are, and it's what makes us the best Navy in the world....but the unrelenting pace, inadequate resourcing and small size are taking their toll.

Our testimony today may seem like a broken record – our Navy faces increased demand without the size and resources required to properly maintain and train for the future. Every year we've had to make tough choices, often choosing to sacrifice long-term readiness to make sure we can be ready to answer the call today.

We are putting our first team on the field, but we lack depth on the bench.

This didn't happen overnight. Readiness declines tend to be insidious; from year to year we have all learned to live with less and less, and we have certainly learned to execute our budget inefficiently with 9 consecutive CR's. This has forced us to repeatedly take money from cash accounts that are the lifeblood of building long-term readiness, it's:

- money for young LTs to fly high and fast and who need air under their seats to perfect their skills
- money for spare parts so our Sailors can fix what they have
- money for Sailors to operate at sea in all kinds of conditions to build instincts that create the best warfighters in the world

With your help, we have an opportunity to change this. It starts by strengthening our foundation.

Let's ensure that the ships and aircraft that we do have are maintained and modernized so they provide the full measure of combat power. Then, let's fill in the holes by eliminating the inventory shortfalls of ships, submarines and aircraft.

And, together, by taking these two steps, we can achieve the ultimate goal of sizing the Navy to meet the strategic demands of this dynamic and changing world.

Mr. Chairman, thank you. I look forward to your questions.